

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/966,247

Examiner

Traci L. Casler

Applicant(s)

HILL, CLARK THURSTON

Art Unit

3629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 07/02/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-34.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


JOHN G. WEISS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to papers filed on July 2, 2007.

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Hunter Webb on Friday, September 13, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method for routing hardcopy mail, comprising:

providing a unique identifier for a recipient, in response to entry of a mailing address of a recipient in a routing system

electronically associating mailing address, provided by the recipient, with the identifier in {{a }} the routing system, the mailing address comprising all information necessary for routing the hardcopy mail to a physical location of the recipient;

providing the identifier to a sender for affixing to a piece of hardcopy mail in lieu of the mailing address in response to a search by the sender for the identifier in the routing system;

retrieving the associated mailing address corresponding to the identifier from a referencing system of the routing system by a postal machine system, the retrieving using only the identifier; and

routing the piece of hardcopy mail to the recipient at the most current associated mailing address, wherein the retrieving obviates a request to a computer.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A method for routing hardcopy mail, comprising:

providing a unique identifier for a recipient; in response to entry of a mailing address of a recipient in a routing system

electronically associating {a} the mailing address, provided by the recipient, with the identifier in {a} the routing system, the mailing address comprising all information necessary for routing the hardcopy mail to a physical location of the recipient;

providing the identifier to a sender for affixing to a piece of hardcopy mail in lieu of the mailing address and submitting the piece of hardcopy mail to a machine, where in response to a search by the sender for the identifier in the routing system;

retrieving the mailing address corresponding to the identifier from a referencing system of the routing system to the machine, using only the identifier; and

providing the most current mailing address to the machine, wherein the machine can read the identifier and route the piece of hardcopy mail to the recipient at the associated mailing address and wherein the retrieving obviates a request to a computer.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) A method for routing hardcopy mail, comprising the:

providing a unique identifier for a recipient; in response to entry of a mailing address of a recipient in a routing system

electronically associating {a} the mailing address, provided by the recipient, with the identifier in {a} the routing system, the mailing address comprising all information necessary for routing the hardcopy mail to a location of the recipient;

providing the identifier to a sender for affixing to a piece of hardcopy mail in lieu of the mailing address in response to a search by the sender for the identifier in the routing system;

electronically editing the associated mailing address;

electronically associating the edited mailing address with the identifier; and

sending the edited mailing address to a machine through a referencing system of the routing system by retrieving the edited mailing address using only the identifier, wherein the machine can read the identifier and route the piece of hardcopy mail to the recipient at the edited mailing address and wherein the retrieving obviates a request to a computer.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

3. Claims 1, 8, 16 20, 28 and 33 disclose method system and product for receiving a mailing address from a recipient in a routing system and assigning a unique identifier for the recipient. Electronically associating the identifier with the mailing address that the recipient entered in the routing system. The identifier is then provided to a sender who searches the recipient in the routing system. The sender then affixes the identifier to a hard copy piece of mail. The recipient is then able to edit the mailing address associated with the identifier, the edited mailing address is send to a machine through a referencing system to route the piece of mail to the recipient which obviates a request to a computer.

4. The prior art does not teach or suggest three important limitations of the above noted claims. The prior art fails to teach the sender searching the routing system and receiving the recipient identifier. The prior art further fails to teach the postal machine search a routing system to retrieve the address of the identifier.

5. US Patent Couch et al 7130803 Unique virtual dynamically-capable addressing system and method of mail and parcel delivery and forwarding.

6. Couch fails to teach the sender the ability to search the routing system to retrieve the recipients address identifier along with the postal machine requesting the mailing address from the routing system when routing the mail to the recipient.

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

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8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Traci L. Casler whose telephone number is 571-272-6809. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 6:00 am-4:30 pm.

9. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on 571-272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TLC



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